



**The Chamber of  
Commerce of Hawaii**

*Since 1850*

February 11, 2008

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC Docket No. 08-4, Hawaiian Telcom Petition for Waiver of High-cost Universal Support Rules

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii would like the opportunity to comment on Hawaiian Telcom's petition for waiver of high-cost universal support rules.

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii is an organization representing the interests of all Hawaii's business community. With over 1,100 member companies representing over 200,000 employees. The Chamber offers business networking opportunities, provides training and business building opportunities, lobbies government and advocates on behalf of business interests, and functions as the voice of business throughout the state.

Hawaiian Telcom is seeking a waiver to receive federal universal support service in order to employ a modern, robust telecommunications infrastructure. The Chamber supports Hawaiian Telcom's efforts. From the Chamber's perspective, the federal funds given to Hawaiian Telcom would work its way into Hawaii's economy. Any economic stimulus of this kind is important to our fragile economy.

Hawaiian Telcom's infrastructure plays an important role for businesses in Hawaii. As the incumbent local exchange carrier, Hawaiian Telcom's network provides voice and data connection links to virtually every business and resident. Having a strong network not only benefits the company, but the entire state as well.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on Hawaiian Telcom's position. We ask that the Federal Communications Commission consider all the unique attributes of our island state as well as Hawaiian Telcom's needs to further serve its businesses and residents alike.

Sincerely,

James C. Tollefson  
President & CEO